(c) In cases of acute urgency and subject to completion of the required documentation, the passport can be issued on the same day and in not so emergent cases, within 3—7 days.

(d) and (e) Passport Office Bangalore is being instructed to open a separate counter for Tatkal applications.

**Authentication of Certificates**

1751. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian going to certain countries for job opportunities to have to get their certificates authenticated by Government of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government also have such stipulation for people coming from these countries to India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Several countries require authentication of educational degrees and other official documents like marriage certificates of Indian nationals seeking employment there, by the Government of India.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Foreign documents are accepted in India only after similar authentication by concerned foreign governments and duly attested by our diplomatic missions resident in those countries.

**Indian peacekeeping forces under UN aegis**

1752. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has on the request of the United Nations, agreed to increase the strength of its peacekeeping force under UN aegis to 8,000 troops;